(ii) Increase in ATF prices from time to time.

(iii) Pilots' agitation/strike from October, 1992 to January, 1993.

(iv) Emergence of Air Taxi Operators, resulting in the fall of traffic carried by Indian Airlines particularly on the profitable trunk routes.

(v) A fare structure that does not fully offset the increase in input costs.

(c) The following are the major steps taken to minimise the losses and to make Indian Airlines a profitable venture :—

(i) Product Improvements

—Improvement in service both on ground and on board.

—Improvement in passenger comfort by increasing seat pitch in Economy Class of A-300.

—Introduction of Business Class in A-320 aircraft.

(ii) Pricing and Distribution Strategies.

—Incentives/concessions introduced for customers and agents.

—Setting up of Sales Forces to generate more business.

(iii) Organisational improvements.

—Changes in the organisational structure and systems to enable a speedy and cohesive response to the environment.

—Closer consultation with the employee Unions/Associations to foster an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

(iv) Increased fleet utilisation as a result of introduction of productivity linked schemes of remuneration.

(v) Increased international operations to usefully deploy available capacity.

(vi) Tie up with Air India in several areas, like joint venture operations in the Gulf countries, hub and spoks operations.

Allegations against ATOs

4886. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any allegation against any Air Taxi Operators that they have stolen things from IA; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 5 incidents of alleged theft involving insulation tapes, chokes engine oil and a wheel chair have been reported so far. The incidents are under investigation by the police.

Use of counterfeit spare parts in aircrafts

4887. SHRI AHMED MOMMED BHAI PATEL :
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI :
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Norwegian aviation expects have concluded that a large number of accidents that occur the world over are the result of the million dollars worth of counterfeit spare parts that the aircrafts are using;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that there are more than 1 million dollars worth of unapproved parts in the inventories of the United States aviation industry and the scenario is the same in Europe;

(c) whether Government have examined the point regarding the counterfeit plane spares;

(d) whether Government have conducted any enquiry regarding use of such spares in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action proposed to be taken in the matter

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) An article entitled "Bogus parts—Defecting the Hidden Threat"

has been published in the flight safety digest (special double issue) January/February, 1994. It has referred to an accident to an aircraft of a Norwegian ship building company; Norwegian safety investigators have traced the inflight breakup and crash to sub-standard parts.

In the article, it is mentioned that even the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) fleet of 62 aircraft has an approved parts problem. The audit found that 39 per cent of $ 32 million worth of aircraft parts stocked at an FAA facility in Oklahama were not approved parts.

(c) No case of usage of counterfeit plane spares has been found by Director General Civil Aviation (DGCA) in the recent past.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

Conversion of Bangalore Airport into International Airport

4888. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering shifting of the existing Bangalore airport and to convert it into an International airport;

(b) if not, whether Government would consider improving the existing airport and to convert it into International airport; and

(c) whether Government would also consider taking over the existing Airport area from *Hindustan Aeronautics Limited* and expand the passenger amenities and runway facilities in view of the increase in air-traffic ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) The existing airport at Bangalore belongs to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. The National Airports Authority (NAA) maintains and operates a Civil enclave. At present, international chartered cargo flights are operating from this airport. Government is examining various options, like development of additional facilities at this airport, construction of a new airport, etc. in consultation with the authorities of HAL and the State Government.

Tourism Action Plan

4889. SHRI AHMED MOHAMED BHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 490 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th February, 1994 and state :

(a) what are the main points of the discussion paper prepared by the Ministry to augment tourist arrivals to India;

(b) by when the discussion on the Discussion Paper is likely to be completed;

(c) to what extent tourist inflow will increase;

(d) what are the areas or spots in the State where immediate restructuring will take place; and

(e) what are the facilities that will be provided to the tourists after their arrival in India ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) The main points in the Discussion Paper for augmenting tourist arrivals include improvement of air transport facilities to India and internal transport systems, integrated development of tourist centres, refurbishment of monuments and provision of tourist facilities around them, augmentation of accommodation restaurants and other tourist facilities, development of manpower resources and strengthening of marketing efforts. The discussions on the paper is likely to continue till the concerned ministries/agencies are able to examine the proposals and take a final view regarding their implementation.

(c) The tourist inflow to the country is expected to increase to 5 million.

(d) and (e) The paper envisages the improvement of infrastructural facilities in the major tourist receiving centres, each of which is visited by at least one per cent of the tourists.

Leasing out of land by the National Airpotrs Authority

4890. SHRI ALLADI P. RAJAKUMAR Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :